

REMARKS


Claims 1-43 and 48-56 are pending in the application. Claims 1-37 and 48-56 are allowed. Claims 38-43 stand rejected. All rejected claims are canceled without prejudice. All remaining claims are allowed.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. No fee is due for this amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fee for this response or credit any overpayment to the **Deposit Account No.13-0010 (IO-1016-US)**.

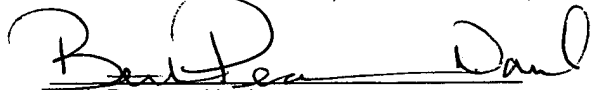
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I do hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on February 6, 2004 as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.


Beth Pearson-Naul